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GCCMS #: 2019-009-00105

EKME #: 4018082

To: Timothy Sargent  
Pour:

Date: FEB 14 2019

Object: **MEETING WITH DEPUTY MINISTER STEVEN PINKSEN, ENVIRONMENT,**  
Objet: **NUNAVUT**

From / Luke McKay, A/Director, Intergovernmental Affairs  
De:

FEB 12 2019

Via: Anne Lamar, Senior Assistant Deputy Minister, Strategic Policy

8

FEB 14 2019

Additional approvals:

Autre(s) approbation(s):

Scott Gilbert, Regional Director General, Central and Arctic Region

☐ Material for the Minister  
Documents pour le Ministre

☐ Your Signature  
Votre signature

☒ Information

Remarks: This briefing note was developed in consultation with the following  
Remarques: regions/sectors:

Drafting Officer/  
Rédacteur:

Nathan Morris (613 – 990-0510)/ Luke McKay / nl



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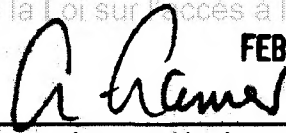
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Approved by Anne Lamar

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## **SCENARIO NOTE FOR THE DEPUTY MINISTER**

### **MEETING WITH DEPUTY MINISTER STEVEN PINKSEN, ENVIRONMENT, NUNAVUT**

#### **Date and Location of Meeting:**

February 18, 2019 from 3:00 pm–3:30 pm EST, phone call

#### **Objective**

- To establish a Deputy Minister-level working relationship with the territory and advance common goals to promote and sustainably manage Canada's fish and seafood sector, including aquaculture. (Note: a biography of Mr. Pinksen is in Annex A).

#### **Key Points to Register**

There are a number of key issues currently at the forefront of DFO's relationship with Nunavut, including the upcoming Deputy Ministers' meeting for the Canadian Council of Fisheries and Aquaculture Ministers, the new DFO-CCG Arctic Region, the co-development of the *Nunavut Fishery Regulations* and the MOU regarding marine conservation and the High Arctic. Background information about these issues is provided in Annex B.

1. ***Canadian Council of Fisheries and Aquaculture Ministers (CCFAM) Deputy Ministers' Meeting*** – The annual CCFAM Deputy Ministers' meeting is being planned for April 2019 in Saskatchewan. You may wish to provide your colleague an indication of timing and probe for any key issues he would like to discuss at the meeting. A meeting agenda is being co-developed with provinces and territories. With your concurrence, it will be circulated to CCFAM deputies over the coming weeks for feedback.

#### **Key Messages**

- **I hope you can attend the next annual CCFAM Deputy Ministers' meeting, which is being planned for April 2019 in Saskatchewan.**
  - **We will be circulating an agenda for comment in the coming weeks. I would appreciate any views you may have on priority issues that could be addressed at the upcoming meeting.**
2. ***New DFO-CCG Arctic Region*** – The new DFO-CCG Arctic Region was announced on October 2018. The new DFO executives (Regional Director General, Gabriel Nirlungnayuq, and Assistant Commissioner of the Coast Guard, Neil O'Rourke) are beginning engagement with provincial and territorial governments, Inuit and all Indigenous peoples, residents of the North, and northern leaders to define the programs, services and geographic scope of the new Region and its activities. A

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meeting, led by the Arctic Region Regional Director General and Assistant Commissioner of the Coast Guard, took place with officials of the Government of Nunavut in Iqaluit on 11th February where feedback on the new region was received. The new Regional Director General will be based in Rankin Inlet, Nunavut. The new Assistant Commissioner of the Coast Guard will be based in Yellowknife.

#### Key Messages

- **As you know, on October 24, 2018, DFO and the Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami announced the creation of a new Arctic region.**
  - **The new region will enable DFO and Coast Guard to work more closely with Inuit and Indigenous leaders and organizations, stakeholders, and Arctic residents.**
  - **The new DFO Regional Director General for the Arctic region, Gabriel Nirlungnayuq, will be based in Rankin Inlet, Nunavut.**
  - **I am interested in your thoughts on the new region and its implementation.**
3. ***Nunavut Fishery Regulations*** – The *Nunavut Fishery Regulations* are being co-developed with Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated, the Government of Nunavut, the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board, and Makivik Corporation. The co-development team (including Government of Nunavut representatives) is undertaking an engagement tour, reaching 24 Nunavut communities. This co-development approach contributes to the Department's reconciliation commitment to recognize and implement the rights of Indigenous peoples related to fisheries, oceans, aquatic habitat, and marine waterways.

#### Key Messages

- **The co-development of the *Nunavut Fishery Regulations* is a recognition of the importance of the role that the fisheries play in reconciliation and Inuit self-determination.**
  - **I am excited about the innovative co-development approach for the Regulations. I look forward to continued progress as we consult with communities.**
4. ***Marine conservation and the High Arctic – MOU for signature of Government of Nunavut*** – Parks Canada Agency is currently leading the negotiation of an Inuit Impact and Benefit Agreement (IIBA) for the Tallurutiup Imanga National Marine Conservation Area (TINMCA) with the Qikiqtani Inuit Association (QIA). DFO participates in the negotiations in recognition that, once established, the Minister of Fisheries, Oceans and the Canadian Coast Guard would retain legislative responsibilities within the National Marine Conservation Area (NMCA) with departmental representation on the co-management board of the NMCA once established. Minister Wilkinson signed the Agreement-in-Principle for the IIBA on Oct 31, 2018. Once negotiated, the IIBA will be proposed for Ministerial signature. The agreement commits the parties to work with the Government of Nunavut to advance protection of the High Arctic Basin area.

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### **Key Messages**

- **I am pleased with the progress made on the MOU to protect the High Arctic Basin. I look forward to continuing our collaborative work to establish protected areas that are sustainably managed for future generations.**

### **Follow Up**

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**Annex A:**

**NUNAVUT**

**Steve Pinksen**

**Acting Deputy Minister, Department of Environment**



Mr. Pinksen was appointed Acting Deputy Minister of Environment in the Government of Nunavut in December 2018. He had served in the position of Assistant Deputy Minister since January of 2013. In this role he is responsible for ensuring the protection, promotion and sustainable use of natural resources in Nunavut through the management of wildlife, fisheries, and territorial parks.

Steve started working for the Government of the Northwest Territories in 1992, as a Wildlife Officer posted in Pangnirtung (in what is now Nunavut). Since that time he has held a number of progressive positions in the governments of the Northwest Territories and Nunavut. Steve has been with the Nunavut Department of Environment since its inception and has worked extensively with the land and resource co-management system set up under the *Nunavut Agreement*.

He led the development of the first *Nunavut Wildlife Act*, an innovative piece of legislation which implements the *Nunavut Agreement* wildlife co-management system and empowers Inuit harvesters. As the first Director of Policy, Planning and Legislation for the Department of Environment, Steve was responsible for much of the foundational strategic planning and policy development relating to Nunavut's environmental issues.

Steve is an avid outdoorsman. He and his two teenage daughters make their home in Apex, a small community outside Iqaluit, where they enjoy hunting, fishing, boating and time spent on the land.

## **Annex B:**

The Government of Nunavut and DFO have a good working relationship. Senior officials from both organizations, along with Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated and the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board meet regularly as part of the Canada-Nunavut Fisheries and Marine Mammal Cooperation Committee. The next meeting is scheduled for March 20-21.

### **New DFO-CCG Arctic Region**

On October 24, 2018, DFO and the Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami (ITK) announced the creation of a new Arctic region. The creation of the Arctic region will be implemented in phases and has begun with the hiring of new DFO Regional Director General, Gabriel Nirlungnayuq, and a new Assistant Commissioner of the Coast Guard, Neil O'Rourke. They will both work with Inuit and all Indigenous peoples, as well as residents of the North to define the programs, services and geographic scope of the new Region and its activities.

To date, meetings and formal engagements have taken place with:

- Nunavut: Nunavut Wildlife Management Board; Qikitaaluk Wildlife Board; Kivalliq Wildlife Board; Kitikmeot Wildlife Board; Government of Nunavut
- Northwest Territories: Dene Nation; Fisheries Joint Management Committee; Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board
- Quebec: Northern Quebec Hunters and Trappers organizations

The RDG will take the opportunity to join portions of the upcoming Nunavut Fishery Regulations tour to discuss the new region with community members. Feedback on the creation of a new region has been positive, while concerns about Departmental resource levels and the presence of staff in the north have been raised.

### ***Nunavut Fishery Regulations***

On July 9, 2018 a joint statement on the development of fisheries regulations for the Nunavut settlement area was released by DFO, Nunavut Tunngavik Inc., the Government of Nunavut and the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board. The parties stated that they will, among other goals, work collaboratively to co-develop the policies that will form the basis of regulations to govern fisheries and co-develop the new *Nunavut Fishery Regulations*, all while continuing to recognize the role of the Minister of DFO in the management of fisheries and the regulation-making authority of the Governor in Council.

The regulations are being co-developed with Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated, the Government of Nunavut, and the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board. Community consultations and engagement with Nunavut, communities and regional wildlife organizations and hunters and trappers organizations in Nunavut, other governments, Indigenous representatives and communities outside of the Nunavut Settlement Area are planned for 2019.

The co-development of the regulations contributes to the Government of Canada's commitment to advancing reconciliation with Indigenous peoples through a renewed, nation-to-nation, Inuit-Crown and government-to-government relationship based on the recognition of rights, respect, cooperation and partnership.

At the April 2018 Canada-Nunavut Fisheries and Marine Mammal Cooperation Committee meeting, co-management participants emphasized the preeminence of the Nunavut Agreement and



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of economic reconciliation for fisheries and Inuit self-determination through the development of Nunavut Fishery Regulations.

Other key Government of Canada reconciliation initiatives of interest in Nunavut include the Arctic and Northern Policy Framework and the Inuit-Crown Partnership.

#### **Marine conservation and High Arctic – MOU for signature of Government of Nunavut**

Parks Canada Agency is currently leading the negotiation of an Inuit Impact and Benefit Agreement (IIBA) for the candidate Tallurutiup Imanga National Marine Conservation Area (TINMCA) with the Qikiqtani Inuit Association (QIA). DFO participates in the negotiations in recognition that, once established, the Minister of Fisheries, Oceans and the Canadian Coast Guard would retain legislative responsibilities within the National Marine Conservation Area (NMCA) with departmental representation on the co-management board of the NMCA once established. Minister Wilkinson signed the Agreement-in-Principle for the IIBA on Oct 31, 2018. Once negotiated, the IIBA will be proposed for Ministerial signature.

The Agreement-in-Principle committed Parks Canada Agency, DFO, and the Qikiqtani Inuit Association to, among other things, to work collaboratively with the Government of Nunavut to advance protection of the High Arctic Basin area, including the consideration of potential interim protection measures under the *Oceans Act*.

Parks Canada Agency, DFO, the Government of Nunavut, and the Qikiqtani Inuit Association have negotiated a proposed MOU to develop a process to be followed for any environmental designations in the High Arctic Basin. Interim protection of the High Arctic Basin area could potentially contribute up to 6.9% towards the 2020 marine conservation targets.

Canada has conserved 7.9% of its marine environment. Interim protection of all, or portions of the High Arctic Basin area using the *Oceans Act* is currently the Government of Canada's foremost approach to meeting its 2020 marine conservation targets